

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/656,003
Reply to Office Action dated February 24, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

[006] Broadly stated, the present invention provides a method of treating waste material comprising pumping waste material from a storage facility to a treating facility, the pumped material entering a distribution chamber. From the distribution chamber the material is delivered to a first vibrating screen to partially separate solids from liquids, the retained solid material discharged to a storage container and partially cleansed liquid passing the screen into a holding tank. Liquid is pumped from the holding tank to at least one cyclone separator, a first stream from the separator, containing larger particles, discharging on to a second vibrating screen and a second stream from the separator, comprising substantially cleansed liquid, being delivered to a trough. A first stream of liquid is discharged from the trough to the holding tank, and a second stream of liquid is discharged from the trough back to the storage facility.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

[021] Liquid exits the manifold 48 into a bank of cyclonic separators ("cyclones") 52, operating in parallel. The cyclones 52 each separate the partly cleansed fluid into a first fluid stream containing larger particulates, and a second stream which is substantially cleansed of particulates. The first stream exits the bottom of the cyclones 52 and falls onto a vibrating weir plate 54 which dampens its fall. The fluid then is deposited onto a second vibrating shaker deck 56, which has finer screen characteristics than the first deck. The second deck 56 permits liquid to be removed from heavier materials, the latter being vibrated or walked off of the end of the deck, to the spill chute 28 and into the storage container. The second deck 56 is mounted directly over the first deck 36. Thus, screen liquid falls down onto the first deck 26 and aids in diluting the raw waste material as it passes over the first and also helps in reducing any buildup in the screened particulates. The liquid then enters the holding tank 30, for re-circulation through the system. Control valves 54, Figure 4, (Figure 4) can be provided between the manifold 48 and each cyclone 52, to control flow to the cyclones, if desired.